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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,267	10/06/2005	Hiroo Kawasaki	33082M282	6507
441 7590 08/27/2009 SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL 1130 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 1130 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
EXAMINER PELHAM, JOSEPH MOORE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3742				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/27/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/552,267

Applicant(s)

KAWASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph M. Pelham

Art Unit

3742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-9 and 12-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 12-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-8,19-21 and 23-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

The amendment filed 7/16/09 is acknowledged. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, and 12-26 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 19-21, and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat. 5462603 in view of JP2000-173750, US Pat. 6342691, and US Pat. 6129046.

Referring to Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 10-15, and lines 62-67, US'603 discloses a support table 32 and support post 33 made of quartz, which is conventionally transparent, a cushioning member 35, element 14 is heat resistant and covers a side portion of post 33 (claim 20), elements 41, 42 are opaque and below the table, shielding the sealing member 35 from radiation emitted by the heater, and the table assembly is used in a chamber that is evacuated.

The claims differ from US'603 only in calling for the heating element to be embedded in the table, a purging gas supply opening in the table, a quartz gas supply pipe welded to the table and post, opaque upper and side surface covering members for the support table (quartz glass opaque back cover 41, 42 is already disclosed by US'603, with a space between the opaque back cover and the lower surface covering member 32a), a cover assembly that can be disassembled (claim 21), inner and outer heating zones, and the upper surface of a peripheral part of the upper surface covering member being contiguously covered with a part of the side covering member.

However, JP'750 discloses an analogous heating element embedded in a quartz substrate support table. It would have been obvious to modify the heater structure of US'603 so as to be embedded in an upper portion of the table, after the manner of JP'750, to improve conductive heat transfer to the treated substrate. The examiner notes that it would have been immediately obvious to retain the opaque plates 41, 42 below the heater since their heat directing function remains necessary. Moreover, a purging gas supply opening in the table, and a quartz gas supply pipe welded to the table and post do not patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. It would have been obvious to implement a purging gas supply in the support table with a welded quartz pipe since such means have long been conventional in the art, the gas opening in the table availing to expedite purging of gas in immediate proximity to the workpiece, and to utilize a quartz pipe for the same process cleanliness that commends the quartz table. Regarding claim 24, clearly protection of sealing member 35 is imperative, hence placing shielding means in the support post and/or forming the post of opaque material to protect are the proximate means which immediately lend themselves to this function.

Johnsgard et al (US'691) discloses, at Fig. 1, and col. 16, lines 52-67, opaque upper 130B and side 130G, 130B surface covering members for the support table, *"the peripheral part of the upper surface covering member being connected with the side surface covering member so as to enclose the heating means,"* as newly claimed. Moreover, US'691 discloses means 138 to exhaust gas. It would have been obvious to

adapt the cover member of US'691 to the device of US'603 in view of JP'750, since US'691 teaches such to "reduce heat loss and enhance uniformity" (col. 16, line 52).

US'046 discloses, at Fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 34-44, an upper surface of a peripheral part of the upper surface covering member being contiguously covered with a part of the side covering member 38. It would have been obvious to form the side covering member of US'603 in view of JP'750, and US'691, after the manner of US'046, since US'046 teaches such to protect the heater block portion in processes which require reactive gasses.

A cover assembly that can be disassembled is conventional for the purpose of cleaning the chamber, and therefore obvious. Inner and outer heating zones are conventional means to enhance wafer temperature uniformity and are also obvious.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9 and 12-18 are allowed.

Claims 22 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 19-21, and 23-26 have been considered but are not persuasive.

Applicant states that US'046 (Mizuno) does not disclose the recited side and upper covering members that "touch," and that the claimed invention is therefore distinct from the prior art of record.

The examiner notes, however, that he did not rely on US'046 for this teaching, but on US'691 (Johngard) as discussed in the rejection above. As also discussed above, US'691 affords the advantage of improved heat retention while providing also means to accommodate a purging gas.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph M. Pelham whose telephone number is 571-272-4786. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu Hoang can be reached on 571-272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joseph M. Pelham/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3742
8/26/09